

# Dr. Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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## HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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## SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1907.

Accept the place divine Providence has for you; the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events. Here we are, and if we carry a little, we may come to learn that here is best.—Emerson.

## Log-Rolling and Combines.

The action of the Street Committee in apportioning the appropriation for street improvement is, or ought to be, an eye-opener. It should show our people the absurdity and danger of the ward system, and convince them that radical reforms in our plan of government are necessary.

The Street Committee's apportionment is as follows:

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Clay Ward.....      | \$20,000   |
| Jefferson Ward..... | 15,000     |
| Madison Ward.....   | 15,000     |
| Monroe Ward.....    | 10,000     |
| Henry Ward.....     | 9,000      |
| Lee Ward.....       | 7,000      |
| Repairs.....        | 5,000      |
|                     | \$100,000. |

It will be observed that four of the wards are liberally provided for at the expense of the other three, and it is alleged that this was the result of a majority combine against the minority. Keeping that fact in mind, pray give attention to the following exhibit:

| Assess.             | Appropriation. |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Clay Ward.....      | \$5,823.772    |
| Jefferson Ward..... | 4,749.833      |
| Madison Ward.....   | 2,584.211      |
| Monroe Ward.....    | 14,600.628     |
| Henry Ward.....     | 7,253.174      |
| Lee Ward.....       | 6,497.458      |
| Repairs.....        | 8,208.852      |

Clay Ward pays taxes on property assessed at \$5,823.772, and Lee Ward pays on property assessed at \$5,206.552. Yet Clay Ward receives nearly three times as much for street improvement as Lee Ward receives. Marshall Ward pays taxes on property assessed at \$2,584.211, and Henry Ward on property assessed at \$6,497.458. Yet Marshall Ward receives \$16,500 for street improvement, and Henry Ward receives \$9,000.

Monroe Ward pays taxes on property assessed at \$7,253.174 and Jefferson Ward on property assessed at \$4,749.833, yet Monroe Ward receives \$10,000 for street improvement and Jefferson Ward receives \$15,000. While they were at it, why did not the combine take it all? They might have done so, and that is the danger to which the attention of the taxpayers is respectfully called. The apportionment is very pleasant for those who are in the combine, but next time there may be another sort of a combine.

The whole scheme is vicious in principle and intolerable. It is a game of log-rolling and grab, and we fall to see how members of the combine, who are sworn to do their duty by the whole city, can justify their course of action in this particular. We do not champion the interests of any particular ward or section of the city. We consider the welfare of the city as a whole. Nor do we say that the money should always be apportioned according to the assessed value of the real property in the several wards. The question of need and the question of public benefit must also be taken into account. It cannot be that Madison Ward, for example, needs as much money for street improvement as some of the other wards, where much less paving has been done, but Madison Ward is in the combine and gets one of the big slices.

Richmond is a concrete city, not an aggregation of small towns with separate and distinct interests. Wards are merely political divisions, and in making apportionments for any purpose no question of a distinction should ever be considered. But so long as we elect our Councilmen according to wards, and so long as ward Councilmen have the disbursement of city revenues, we may expect log-rolling and combines.

The action of the Street Committee emphasizes the importance of passing the Dabney resolution, providing for a committee to investigate and report on a better form of government for Richmond.

## President Finley's Preachment.

If all railroad men were like President Finley, of the Southern, railroads would be more popular. President Finley has a good eye. He can see both sides of the railroad question—the people's side as well as the railroad's side, and whenever he speaks he parallels the public's interest and the railroad's interest—like a railroad track. "Here's one rail for you," says Mr. Finley, "and here's another for us."

## The Ethics of Government.

Several days ago Mr. J. P. Morgan went to Washington and begged the President to save the railroads from destruction.

Later on Wall Street was in a state of panic, and made frantic appeals to the President to come to the rescue and save the stockholders of the railroads from destruction.

This has caused men to ask themselves questions. Does Theodore Roosevelt hold the fortunes and fate of the American people in the hollow of his hand? Can he decree and bring to pass, and speak again and still the tempest which he has raised? Must we look to Washington for everything? Must we look to Washington for the regulation of our railroads, for protection from railroad oppression, for protection from poisonous foodstuffs, and for our money supply? And must the railroads look to Washington for protection from slaughter by the State Legislatures?

There is no occasion for hysterics. President Roosevelt is no more responsible for the insurance scandals, the Packingtown odors, or the Harriman sensations than the surgeon who diagnoses a disease and applies the knife is responsible for the condition or sufferings of his patient. The President did not cause the disease. He merely discovered it and undertook to eradicate it. If the railroads had not sinned they had never been investigated; if they had obeyed and upheld the law and given the public a square deal, there had been no popular clamor for government control and regulation of rates. If railroad magnates had not juggled stocks, there had been no Harriman revelations and the consequent shock to public confidence.

If the bosses of Butchertown had made clean and honest goods, there had been no "Jungle" stories and no demand for Federal food inspection. Let us be honest and place the blame where it belongs. Self-government is an individual affair. It is a matter of individual self-control. If railroad "magnates" and all who carry on trade will deal fairly with the people, there will be no need of appeals to Washington. The fault is really with ourselves as a people, and not with the President. If we govern ourselves at home, there will be very little occupation for the government in Washington.

## Legal Executions.

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## A Secret Out.

We have always had great respect for the Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, late Secretary of the Treasury, and we have yet to hear any man speak evil of him. He is one of our most popular citizens. Upon a certain occasion he made a speech in Virginia, and The Times-Dispatch disputed with him. But in a communication to the paper he replied so frankly and kindly that we then and there registered a wish that he had been born a Southerner and a Democrat.

By accident we have stumbled upon the secret of Mr. Shaw's popularity. It is not his politics. It is not his financial policy, nor his square dealing. It is his kindness of heart.

When he was Governor of Iowa, in 1891, he received the following letter:—

Livermore, Ia., Dec. 4, 1904.  
Dear Governor, Please can we have another Thanksgiving Day and have it next Thursday? I was sick and could not eat any turkey or any good things I ain't very big. But I like turkey. Please let us have it.  
Your friend,  
MARY ZIGRANG.

In reply the Governor sent a fat turkey and the following letter:—

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 6, 1904.  
Having been informed that Mary Zigrang, of Livermore, Ia., was ill on the 28th day of November, 1904, and was thereby prevented from joining in the festivities incident to Thanksgiving Day, I, therefore, recommend that at a convenient hour on Monday, December 9, 1904, Mr. and Mrs. Zigrang, together with their family and such young friends as Mary may choose, to invite assembly in the family dining room, there to receive the blessed influence of children, parties of such bounties as are usually served in Christian America on the day appointed for national thanksgiving, and that attention be given that Mary shall be heartily supplied with that portion of the national bird and such other delicacies as are most congenial to her tastes.  
Yours very truly,  
Governor of Iowa.

Mary Zigrang wrote another letter, and thanked the Governor for "letting me have a Thanksgiving Day of my own," and for the fat turkey, and she said that the dinner was a success. She also sent the Governor her photograph, and when he left to take a place in the President's Cabinet, she wrote a letter of congratulation, but expressed her personal regret that he should be going away.

It is a very pretty story. The Governor who will take the trouble to appoint a family Thanksgiving Day to gratify an obscure little maid of seven years is a Governor with a heart full of sentiment and worthy to be honored and loved.

If Mr. Shaw were only a Democrat The Times-Dispatch would nominate him for the presidency, with the Mary Zigrang Thanksgiving proclamation as a platform.

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